

K. OTHER

New Jersey State Library

Throughout the year, the New Jersey State Library engaged in various community activities across the state. With the economic downturn, customers went to libraries for help with resumes, filling out job applications online, using e-government services, and learning new computer skills. Selected highlights from the year are summarized below.

Events. The 2009 statewide Summer Reading Program was successful again this year, with 153,639 children reading more than three million books.

The 6th Annual Library Trustee Institute was held in May with over 200 library trustees in attendance. Workshops on conservation and preservation, disaster planning, and fundraising for preservation were held along with virtual and in person training sessions for users of JerseyCat, the statewide interlibrary loan system and the RefUSA database.

A statewide Safe Communities Forum was held in partnership with law enforcement, government, and nonprofits to emphasize the role of libraries as solutions to New Jersey's growing gang problems. Libraries statewide also participated in the Pennies for Peace campaign; over \$14,000 in pennies were collected; this money will fund the building of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

New Jersey Knowledge Initiative. The State Library sustained a \$390,000 cut to this very successful program this past year. Therefore decisions had to be made regarding which databases to retain and which to drop. The State Library continues to advocate for the restoration of funding for this initiative.

New Jersey Talking Book and Braille Center (formerly the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped)

The New Jersey Talking Book and Braille Center (formerly the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped) provides services to New Jersey residents of all ages who cannot easily read standard printed materials because of a visual impairment, a physical handicap, or a learning disability. Highlights for the year are presented below.

Much of the year was spent planning for the transition from audiocassette format to digital books. Staff and customers were trained on using the new digital players and on how to download digital books from the Internet.

The New Jersey Talking Book and Braille Center's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program hosted a training session for staff in 20 public libraries that are Regional Resource Centers. In partnerships with state agencies and local organizations, The Center hosted and sponsored ten American Sign Language Children's Story Hours in FY 2009. The Center also hosted a Workskills Program that connected high school students with visual impairments to on-site job training.

Under a grant from the New Jersey Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Center continued to lend assistive devices and maintain a special collection of books and videos on Deaf culture, American Sign Language, and other relevant topics.

New Jersey State Library Information Center (SLIC)

Midday Training sessions were held for over 250 state agency employees throughout the year; the trainings focused on State Library products and services. Staff also developed three Web-based tutorials for customers on how to get a library card, requesting a book online, and renewing a book on line. Brochures describing the SLIC services were distributed to 45,000 state employees.

The moving of the Jerseyana, NJ Periodicals, General Reference, Genealogy, and US Documents collections was completed. SLIC also received a rating of “outstanding” from the Government Printing Office Assessment Team for maintaining and providing access to government documents.